

The Fear of God

Priority of Fearing God

Prov. 1:7

Fear of God is the beginning of knowledge

Fear & Knowledge – view info with the right perspective and use it for its proper end

1 Cor. 8:1 knowledge can puff up, Titus 1:1 knowledge can lead to godliness

Prov. 9:10; 15:33 (Psalm 111:10)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the holy one is understanding

Wisdom – the art and skill of making decisions that please God in life, particularly in regards to relationships with others. It is righteous living, not mere intelligence or shrewd judgment.

Understanding – real insight into what really matters

Fear and knowledge are paralleled – “to know him is to fear him”

Eccl. 12:13

Conclusion...fear God and keep His commandments

Isaiah 33:6

A gift bestowed by God along with wisdom, knowledge and salvation

Definition

Usually things that we fear we also hate, but in relationship to God, we both love and fear.

The fear of the Lord is a profound sense of awe toward God. It is a mark of genuine faith in God's revelation of himself.

Newton “Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved

Oswald chambers “The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else”

“It is an automatic [believing] reaction in our consciousness to God's transcendent majesty, holiness, grace and love.”

A failure to fear God is a mark of an unbeliever:

Genesis 3:10 After sin, Adam heard and was afraid of God

Psalms 36:1 NO fear of God before the eyes of the transgressor

Prov 1:29 The naïve, fools, and scoffers suffer death because they did not “choose the fear of the Lord.”

Jer. 5:20-24 Foolish Israel doesn't fear or tremble. They don't even tell themselves to fear

“It is the essence of impiety not to fear God in all circumstances in which our sinful situation makes us liable to God's righteous judgments.” John Murray

cf Rom 1:18 the Wrath of God; Lev. 10 – death of Nadab & Abihu, 2 Sam. 6 death of Uzzah; Acts 5 – death of Ananias & Saphira; Hell itself Rev 20:11-15; 21:8

What the Fear of God is not:

For a believer, the fear of God is not a fear of eternal punishment for sin

It is not the kind of fear that a slave feels toward a harsh, cruel master, rather the kind of fear a loved child has for a parent.

It is not the fear of an offended judge gazed on with terror, but rather, a reconciled God gazed on with awestruck love.

Ex. 20:19-20	Do not fear death....fear sinning against him
Deut. 10:12	Fear, walk, love, serve with all your being
Psalms 103:8-18	The lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him
Psalms 130	Forgiveness that you may be feared
Rom 8:15	No spirit of slavery leading to fear again...
1 John 4:15-21	Love replaces fear of punishment
1 Thes. 1:10	Jesus rescues us from the wrath to come
Romans 3:21-25	Justification and propitiation
Hebrews 2:17	Merciful priest who satisfies God's wrath toward sin

1 John 2:22	God sent the son to satisfy his own wrath toward sin
Romans 5:1, 10	Justified, at peace with God; reconciled while sinners
2 Cor. 5:18-20	Reconciled to God
Col 1:20	Reconciled to God through Christ
Gal 4:22	Redeemed & adopted as sons
Eph. 1:5	Predestined for adoption to God through Christ

For a believer, the fear of God is not contrary to worship

Psalms 22:23	Those who fear the Lord also praise Him
Psalms 118:4	Those who fear the Lord, declare his everlasting love
Mal 3:16	Those who fear record their esteem for his name
Rev 14:7, 15:4, 19:5	Those who fear give God glory and praise

For a believer, the fear of God is not contrary to trust

Psalms 115:11	You who fear...Trust the Lord
---------------	-------------------------------

For a believer, the fear of God is not contrary to comfort

Acts 9:31	Fear and comfort
-----------	------------------

Why should Believer's fear God?

1. We fear the Lord because of believers will give an account to God for their lives
 - Ecc 12: 13-14 The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.
 - 2 Cor. 5:9-11 Aim to please in the light of fear of judgment we persuade men
 - 1 Pet 1:17 Father who impartially judges...live in fear
 - Heb. 12 God's loving chastisement for his erring children

2. We fear because of the awesome nature of his personal power

Gen 28 Jacob's ladder at Bethel

Is 6 Isiah's commissioning

Lk. 5:1-11 Miraculous catch: Peter's reaction "I am sinful" Disciples "fear"

LK 5: 17-26 healing and forgiveness of the paralytic, crowd's reaction:
Astonished, glorifying God and afraid!

Mk4:40-41

3. We fear because Christ feared God

Isaiah 11:1-3 spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord,
delighted in the fear of the Lord

4. We fear God because we are commanded to fear

Deut. 5:29; 6:2, 13, 24; 8:6; 10:12, 20 (fear and walk = obedience)

Joshua 24:14

1 Sam 12:14, 24

Ps 47:2; 33:8; 96:4

Prov 3:7; 23:17

1 Peter 2:17

5. We fear God because of the tremendous blessings that are promised:

Psalm 25:12, 14 Divine guidance, divine revelation

Psalm 31: 19 Great goodness stored up

Psalm 33:16-19 God's watchful care

Psalm 34:7, 9 Rescue and no lack

Psalm 61:5 Answered prayer as an inheritance

Psalm 85:9 Salvation

Psalm 111:5 Provision of food

Psalm 112:1 Blessings temporal and eternal

Psalms 128:1, 4	Thriving family relationships
Psalms 145:19	Fulfilled desires, answered prayers
Psalms 147:10-11	God's favor
Proverbs 10:27	Prolongs life
Proverbs 14:26	Strong confidence
Proverbs 14:27	Refuge for children, fountain of life
Proverbs 15:16	better to possess little while fearing God, than to have an abundance with turmoil
Proverbs 19:23	Leads to life, peace
Proverbs 22:4	Reward of humility and fear: riches, honor, and life
Proverbs 31:30	A God-fearing woman is praised
Mal 4:2	Sun of Righteousness with healing in his wings

What does fearing God produce in a believer's life?

Obedience

Exodus 1:17	Midwives obeyed God, not Pharaoh
Psalms 128:1	Fear and walk in His ways
Psalms 111:10	Fear...good understanding...do his commands
Gen 22:12	Fear...since you have not withheld your only son
Hebrews 11:7	In reverence (fear) prepared an ark

Separation from sin

Exodus 20:20	Fear... that you may not sin
Job 1:1, 8	turning away from evil
Proverbs 8:13	Fear...hate evil
Proverbs 16:6	One keeps away from evil
Proverbs 23:17	Do not envy, fear the Lord
2 Cor 7:1	Growing holiness in the light of promises and warnings

Phil 2:12-13 Work out your salvation with fear

1 Peter 1:17 Holy living

Humility in Relationships

Lev. 19:14 Honor those with handicaps

Pr 24:19-22 Honor governmental authority

Eph 5:21 Mutual submission in fear of Christ

Eph 6:5-8 Sincere, God-pleasing obedience to human authority

Col 3:22-25 Same as above

1 Peter 2:17 Honor and love for others with fear

How do we cultivate fear of the Lord?

1. Proverbs 2:1-2 – Be humble & teachable

Prov. 8:13 fear is to hate...pride and arrogance

Prov. 15:33 fear...honor and humility

Prov. 22:4 fear and humility rewarded

2. Proverbs 2:3 – Be Prayerful

Psalms 86:11 unite my heart to fear your name

3. Proverbs 2:4 – Be diligent to study God's word

Deut. 4:10; 31:12 Hear words and learn to fear

Deut. 6:1-3 Teach truth that the next generation might fear

Deut. 17:18-19 Read/copy and learn to fear

Psalms 19:7-9 Fear of the Lord inseparable from God's revelation

Psalms 112:1 Delight in word

Prov. 13:13 fear the commandments of God